

364.163
R225X

Bankers Can Help Stop Senior Exploitation Before It Happens!

Introducing...

DEPOSITORY

MAR 31 2001

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

B•SAFE

Bankers and Seniors Against Financial Exploitation

The Illinois State TRIAD, its member organizations and the banking community are introducing a new statewide program which addresses financial exploitation against seniors.

Financial exploitation can generally be classified into two broad categories; those in which the senior knows the person and those involving a stranger. Whatever form it takes, exploitation often culminates during a visit to a banking facility. The challenge for banks' front-line personnel is to identify those situations and provide the help necessary to prevent or stop the exploitation. The key to B•SAFE's success is the coordination between financial institutions, law enforcement and elder abuse professionals to help seniors who are at risk of losing their money or assets.

The goal of B•SAFE is to encourage and help banks train their personnel to identify, report and stop situations involving senior exploitation.

What Bank Employees Can Do To Help

- ❖ Learn reason for large transactions or withdrawals.
- ❖ Check third-party authorization and documentation.
- ❖ Consult with a supervisor or bank security.
- ❖ Ask senior to speak with bank security or a supervisor.
- ❖ Report suspicions to the Illinois Elder Abuse and Neglect Program.
- ❖ Get photographic evidence and be able to describe a suspect.
- ❖ Notify security or police if it is believed the senior is in any immediate danger.



Other Ways Banks Can Help

- ❖ **Educate employees about abuse so they can recognize and report abuse situations.**
- ❖ **Take a proactive approach to developing new procedures and product lines to detect unusual banking activities and verify suspicious transactions.**
- ❖ **Develop and distribute educational materials alerting customers to scams and ways to recognize financial exploitation. Conduct senior seminars on elder exploitation.**
- ❖ **Generate media attention highlighting financial abuse and techniques for stopping it.**

364.163
E2254





3 0112 042544814

To report or discuss elder abuse, neglect or financial exploitation:
Illinois Department on Aging Senior Helpline 800-252-8966

www.state.il.us/aging

To report or discuss financial or consumer crimes:
Illinois Attorney General's Office Senior Hotline 800-243-5377

www.state.il.us/ag

To receive more information on B•SAFE
Bernadette Barron, Project Director (312) 855-0040

www.il-bsafe.org

A project of the Illinois State Triad